

Downer
Serial no. 10/045,923
Filed 1/9/2002
Attorney docket no. BEA920000021US1

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REMARKS

Claims 4-7

Claim 4 is an independent claim, from which claims 5-7 ultimately depend. Claim 7 has been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but which would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 7 depends from claim 6, which depends from claim 5, which depends from claim 4. Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 5, 6, and 7, and claims 5, 6, and 7 have been cancelled. Claim 4 is therefore now allowable.

Claims 8-10

Claim 8 is an independent claim, from which claims 9-10 depend. Claims 9 and 10 have each been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but which would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Both claims 9 and 10 directly depend from claim 8. Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9, and claim 9 has been cancelled. Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 8 (prior to amendment of claim 8). Therefore, claims 8 and 10 are now allowable.

Claims 11-15

Claims 11-15 have been rejected. Claims 11 and 14 are independent claims, from which claims 12-13, and 15 depend. Claims 11 and 14 have been amended to include limitations comparable to those of objected-to claim 7. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 11 and 14, and claims 12-13 and 15 that depend therefrom, are now in allowable form.

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Claims 16-18

Claim 16 is an independent claim, from which claims 17 and 18 depend. Claims 17 and 18 each been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but which would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Both claims 17 and 18 directly depend from claim 16. Claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 17, and claim 17 has been cancelled. Claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16 (prior to amendment of claim 16). Therefore, claims 16 and 18 are now allowable.

Claims 19-22

Claims 19-22 are dependent claims, depending from various independent claims that are allowable. Therefore, claims 19-22 are also allowable.

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Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the pending claims in condition for allowance, and request that they so be allowed. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



1-26-2005
Date

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